

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 06564 171427 Z

44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 IO-12 DPW-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /140 W

----- 090531

R 171110 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 293

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6564

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF NGUYEN NGOC HUY ON THE GVN/ PRG PARIS TALKS -

(A) GVN PROPOSALS REGARDING ELECTIONS

(B) DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES AND GVN LIBERALIZATION

(C) PRG PERSONALITIES

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. PROFESSOR NGUYEN NGOC HUY, LEADER OF THE PROGRESSIVE
NATIONALIST

MOVEMENT AND DELEGATE TO THE GVN/ PRG PARIS TALKS, TOLD AN EMBASSY
OFFICER APRIL 16 THAT HE HAD RETURNED TO SAIGON APRIL 14 AT THE
REQUEST OF PRESIDENT THIEU AND WOULD RETURN TO PARIS APRIL 21.

HUY SAID THAT THIEU WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH HIM GVN STRATEGY FOR THE
PARIS TALKS, SPECIFICALLY WHAT PROPOSALS WOULD BEST SUIT THE BASIC
GVN ARGUMENT THAT ELECTIONS SHOULD BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 06564 171427 Z

WHAT ACTIONS OR ARGUMENTS WOULD BEST DEAL WITH THE PRG CONCENTRATION ON THE NEED TO ESTABLISH " DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES" IN SOUTH VIETNAM BEFORE AN ELECTION CAN BE HELD.

ELECTIONS.

2. REGARDING ELECTIONS, HUY SAID THAT HE WOULD ADVOCATE TO THIEU THAT THE GVN PROPOSE ELECTION OF A " NATIONAL ASSEMBLY", THE FORMAL PURPOSE OF WHICH WOULD BE " TO DECIDE THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF SOUTH VIETNAM". THE ASSEMBLY, IF IT CHOSE, COULD DECIDE TO RESHAPE THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC, TO HOLD ELECTIONS OF ANOTHER SORT OR MAKE SOME OTHER SUGGESTION. THIS PROPOSAL, HUY STATED, STRIKES A MIDDLE GROUND BETWEEN ADVOCACY OF ELECTIONS FOR THE PRESIDENCY AND GVN LEGISLATURE, WHICH THE PRGE KNOWS IT WOULD LOSE DECISIVELY, AND FORMATION OF A COALITION CABINET FOLLOWED BY ELECTIONS FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, WHICH HUY BELIEVES MAY BE IN THE BACK OF THE MINDS OF PRG NEGOTIATORS.

DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES.

3. PRG EMPHASIS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF " DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES" IS, IN HUY' S BELIEF PRIMARILY A TACTIC TO DELAY ELECTIONS FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS AND PERHAPS FOR AS LONG AS FOUR YEARS, AT WHICH TIME THERE WILL BE ANOTHER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN THE U. S. WHICH HANOI MIGHT SEEK TO EXPLOIT. IN THIS REGARD, HUY THOUGHT IT PERTINENT THAT IN THE 1954 GENEVA ACCORDS THE COMMUNISTS HAD SPECIFIED A TWO YEAR WAIT BETWEEN SIGNING OF THE ACCORDS AND THE HOLDING OF AN ELECTION. THE COMMUNISTS , HUY REASONED, FELT THEN THAT THEY WOULD NEED TWO YEARS TO SO ORGANIZE AS TO COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY IN AN ELECTION. HUY SAID THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH EMIGRE PERSONALITY AU TRUONG THANH WHO HAD MUCH THE SAME IMPRESSION. THANH SAID THAT HE WS CONVINCED THAT THE COMMUNISTU ON SIGNING THE PARIS AGREEMENTS HAD BELIEVED THAT THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH WOULD DETERIORATE SO QUICKLY, AND THAT BASIC FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE WERE SO INCLINED TOWARD THE PRG, THAT THE PRG COULD COMPETE IN AN ELECTION NOT MANY MONTHS AFTER THE SIGNING. NOW, THANH SAID, THE COMMUNISTS SEE THAT THEY MADE AN ERRONEOUS ANALYSIS AND WERE PLAYING FOR TIME.

4. HUY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE " DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES" ARGUMENTS OF THE COMMUNISTS HAD SUFFICIENT BASIS IN REALITIES TO BE AN EFFECTIVE PROPAGANDA WEAPON ABROAD. HUY HOPES TO PERSUADE THIEU TO CONTINUE TO TAKE SUCH MOVES TOWARD " LIBERALIZATION" AS THE FREEING OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 06564 171427 Z

TRUONG BINH DZU AND THE RECENT RELEASE OF A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF OTHER CIVIL AND POLITICAL PRISONERS. HE COMMENTED THAT THE METHOD OF APPLICATION OF DECREE LAW 060 WOULD ALSO BE AN IMPORTANT TOUCHSTONE OF THE GVN'S SINCERITY REGARDING ENSURING A REASONABLE MEASURE OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN THE SOUTH. ONCE THE DEMOCRACY PARTY HAS BEEN ORGANIZED AND ITS MAJOR RECRUITING EFFORT COMPLETED, HUY SAID THAT THE TRUE INTENT OF THE GVN IN THIS REGARD WOULD BECOME CLEARER. IT IS WITHIN THE CAPABILITY OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO PLACE SUCH PRACTICAL AND PROCEDURAL OBSTACLES IN THE PATH OF SUCH GROUPS AS THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE, OF WHICH HUY'S PNM IS A MEMBER, THAT THEY WOULD NEVER HOPE TO MEET THE STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE DECREE LAW. HE SAID HE WOULD MAKE THIS POINT TO THE PRESIDENT, AS HE SAID HE HAS DONE FREQUENTLY IN THE PAST.

PRG PERSONALITIES.

5. HUY SAID THAT AT THE PARIS TALKS HE HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT

NGUYEN THI CHON, WIFE OF NLF OFFICIAL TRAN BACH DANG, HAD FAR MORE POWER THAN MRS. NGUYEN THI BINH. CHON, HE SAID, WAS FROM MYTHO.

NGUYEN VAN HIEU, FORMAL HEAD OF THE PRG DELEGATION, SEEMED TO HAVE LITTLE REAL INFLUENCE AT ALL, DEFERRED TO OTHERS AT MEETINGS AND WAS NEVER PERMITTED TO
E E E E E E E

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON06564
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: CORE6
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730444/aaaaiqmn.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 21 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Nov-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <07-Dec-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980122; jms 980122
Subject: COMMENTS OF NGUYEN NGOC HUY ON THE GVN/ PRG PARIS TALKS - (A) GVN PROPOSALS REGARDING ELECTIONS (B) DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES AND GVN LIBERALIZATION (C) PRG PERSONALITIES CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PINT
To: BANGKOK
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
CINCPAC
DANANG
EA

JAKARTA
NHA TRANG
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005